



The Hazelnut

A City of Tukwila publication for our residential and business communities

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020
VOLUME 40, NUMBER 6

Tukwila: The City of Opportunity, the Community of Choice



Upcoming budget addresses City priorities

At their Monday, December 7 regular meeting, the Tukwila City Council adopted the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget. Every two years the City works to make decisions for the upcoming budget cycle.

The 2021/2022 budget process has been one of the most difficult in recent memory. Ongoing effects of the coronavirus pandemic and associated reduction in revenues to the City will continue to impact City operations in the coming biennium. Public safety and public health remain the City's priorities.

Financial starting point

Due to early action by the Council, plus substantial financial sacrifice by our non-represented staff and most of our labor partners through furloughs or layoffs, the City approaches the coming biennium in a better fiscal position than forecasted earlier this year. Because of this diligence, the 2021/2022 budget does not use any contingency funds, since the financial outfall of COVID-19 may affect us further.

Increase in service levels

The 2021/2022 budget restores some services that were reduced earlier this year. Returning additional staff to streets and parks maintenance will improve services such as vegetation control, parks maintenance and litter pick-up. The budget also contains some new, innovative ways of doing business in Tukwila. For the Tukwila Police Department, it includes 2021 funding for a pilot program of one mental health professional to assist officers responding to people in crisis. The City anticipates hiring a second mental health professional in 2022, assuming the success of next year's pilot program.

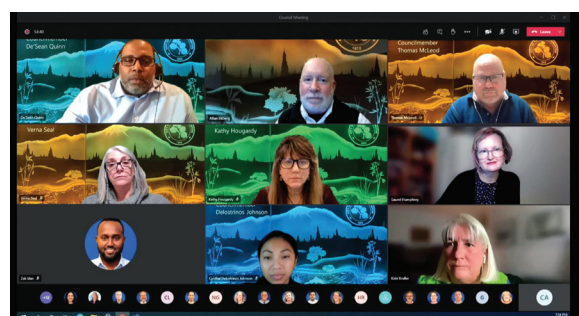
2021 focus on human services

With leadership from the Council, the City has substantially increased funding for human services in 2021. This is building on the additional funds made available to the City in 2020 through a redistribution of the State's portion of sales tax generated in Tukwila. In response to the pandemic and associated job loss by many Tukwila residents, this year the community received approximately \$100,000 in additional rental assistance funds. The 2021 budget includes additional funding to support families, and to assist in helping to mitigate an anticipated wave of evictions following the lifting of the Governor's moratorium.

City offices still closed

Although some services will continue to be reduced in the coming biennium, the City will prioritize the restoration of services as revenues return to pre-pandemic levels. In-person City operations remain affected by the pandemic, and City facilities remain closed to the public. However, Tukwila City staff regularly pursues innovation to provide services to the community, such as a contactless permit process and delivery of meals to seniors in our community.

This year's budget process, though difficult, was a great collaboration between the Council, Administration and community. During the budget listening session and budget survey, Tukwila community members provided valuable input to help identify priorities. The City is grateful for community participation, including the continued resolve to mask up and social distance, working to defeat the spread of the coronavirus for a safer new year.



Mayor's Message

Spotlight on community needs



Although gathering together physically is still restricted, we all do share a particular vantage point: unwanted front row seats to witness Covid's impact on our world. We have seen the magnitude of its effects on the daily lives of our

neighbors. For some in our community, the consequences have been overwhelming.

Tukwila's Human Services program provides assistance to Tukwila residents in several areas: Wellness, Food security, Support for independence, Navigating social resources and more through contracted partners. Housing assistance – stability, eviction prevention, and housing repair – is a major component of the program. However, because of Covid's impact, the Housing segment has been inundated with requests for assistance. City staff has distributed an unprecedented amount of rental assistance to prevent wide-spread evictions, and they continue to leverage other non-City funding sources to further serve our low-income residents.

This year, when the State returned sales tax funds to Tukwila, Council and Administration agreed that temporarily– during the COVID Crisis – 90% of those funds could be used exclusively for rental assistance. With the impact of coronavirus expanding, Human Services started putting these funds to use in May.

The funds going out can only be used for rental assistance to low-income renters. A Human Services measure as to the depth of the need: Since May of 2020, Tukwila helped 91 households that have not received assistance in the past. Those requesting assistance include couples, singles and families of all ages, all financially fragile.

Based on the need of 2020, the Council has decided to increase the Human Services budget for 2021. Besides the extra funds to help with rent and utilities, additional funding will be provided to our partner agencies that support housing, wellness and food security, and a temporary part-time staffer will be hired to help handle the increased workload.

Finally, in closing, I also want to highlight the great work people are doing to keep themselves, their families and neighbors safe. Wearing a mask is so critical not only to your ongoing health, but to everyone in your family and community. Staying socially distanced, only leaving your home for critical trips, and regular hand-washing/sanitation are also key activities to prevent contracting the virus. Please continue these safety measures to stay healthy.

Allan Ekberg
Mayor, City of Tukwila

**Good work, all –
Tukwila's numbers
went up!**

United States
**Census
2020**



The 2020 US Census Bureau wrapped up its enumeration process on October 15, 2020. The City of Tukwila successfully ended the 2020 Census with an increase of 4.2% from 2010, with a final count at 68.2%. Overall, King County's self-response rate ended at 76.4%, with an increase of 6.1% from 2010, and the US national average ended at 67%.

Congratulations, Tukwila, on the increase. Of course, in ten years you will be tasked once again to self-respond to the 2030 Census. The City's goal: to surpass this year's number. We have a long stretch of time to continue working on our partnerships with neighbors, businesses, community members, youth and faith-based organizations, to ensure the City fully benefits from this important civic exercise.

by De'Sean Quinn,
2020 Council President



As this year draws to a close, there is much to reflect on. We could not have foreseen the challenges of 2020. There is no one person who hasn't been impacted by COVID-19 in some way: physical and mental health, financial insecurity, interrupted education, isolation from friends, and countless other interruptions to normalcy. We've been through so much and the journey is not done.

I am extremely proud of the resilience that our community has shown. Seeing people taking care of one another in ways both large and small on a daily basis helps me feel hopeful for the future. Tukwila's own City employees stepped up to the true challenge of public service, and I recognize and thank them. When our world changed, City staff immediately shifted their focus to emerging needs, from helping our businesses forge a path to recovery, to providing activity kits to children at the parks, to providing meals to families and seniors. To be in public service means to be nimble, adjusting to the needs of the community, and stepping in where there is a role to fill.

Community resiliency became the unplanned but welcomed theme of our budget deliberations for 2021–2022. We have been focused on the budget for months, specifically on how to plan for the future in a world of uncertainty. We have

been challenged to build a budget in a way that protects the community's investments and secures future opportunities. Our strength IS our community. Our budget reflects this community spirit and care for our neighbors with investments in youth, elders, safe and clean streets, and neighborhoods. Although we faced significant financial challenges from the loss of revenues due to the pandemic, the Council wisely kept its focus on protecting our quality of life. We were asked to do so by those who provided feedback via listening sessions, the online budget survey, and other avenues of communication. I appreciate all who made their voices heard.

Effective government is a partnership, and each one of us has a role. The public has the responsibility to communicate its needs. We have the responsibility of developing a budget that is responsive, informed, and designed with solutions along with fiscally-responsible decisions to protect our future.

With that, it has been my great honor to serve as Council President this year. I wish all of you a joyful, safe and healthy new year.

City Council Actions – Highlights from September–November 2020

- Adopted a fee for fingerprint services (*Res. 1997*)
- Authorized grant funding application for the Duwamish Neighborhood Trail Park Project (*Res. 1999*)
- Authorized an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for implementation of the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network System approved by voters
- Supported approval for King County Proposition No. 1: Harborview Medical Center Health and Safety Improvement Bonds (*Res. 2003*)
- Extended the suspension of past-due and late penalties on City utility accounts as part of coronavirus community assistance
- Accepted grant funding for the Gilliam Creek Fish Barrier Removal, Green the Green, and Riverton Creek Flap Gate Removal Projects
- Adopted the 2020-2021 South King Housing and Homelessness Partners Work Plan (*Res. 2005*)
- Accepted grant funding from Sound Transit for the South 152nd Street Safe Routes to School Project
- Approved lodging tax funds for promotion of meetings and other tourism marketing
- Authorized an agreement for 30% design for the 42nd Avenue South Bridge Replacement Project.
- Convened a series of Special Work Sessions for review and deliberation of the 2021–2022 Biennial Budget

The complete text of all legislative items is available online in the Digital Records Center at TukwilaWA.gov. For additional information about any of these actions, call 206-433-8993.

Park improvement projects underway

Between 2019 and 2020, the Parks and Recreation Department worked with MIG Consulting to gather community input and feedback about Tukwila's parks. This March, the City adopted the 2020 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space plan (PROS plan). This valuable guiding document provides the City with recommendations for improvements, and supports decision-making regarding planning and expenditures for capital improvements. The Plan also provides the details necessary for the Department to seek grant funding through state and federal agencies.

A new pickleball court and half basketball court have been installed at **Lee Phillips/Foster Memorial Park**, located at 13919 - 53rd Ave S. Walking path improvements were also completed, including the upgrade of existing gravel paths to asphalt paths.

Crestview Park received a new shelter in the dog park, providing cover to pet owners from the weather. New agility toys, paved entrances, and a walking path were also placed in the dog play areas. A bicycle training safety course will be incorporated into the park in early 2021. The course will create a place for new riders to learn the rules of road. Improvements are expected to be complete in early spring 2021. Crestview Park is located in Tukwila at 16200 - 42nd Avenue South.

To learn more about projects and review the PROS plan, please visit TukwilaWA.gov/PROS.



PARK N' PLAY

Tukwila Parks and Recreation is delivering FREE MEALS, snacks, activity kits, & other essentials!

January 11 - April 1

Learn More: TukwilaWA.gov/parks



Visit Us

Day	9:15 - 10am	10 - 10:45am	11 - 11:45am	12:15 - 1:15pm
Monday	Impact Public Schools 3438 S 148 th St		Cascade View Elementary 13601 32 nd Ave. S	Crestview Park 16400 42 nd Ave. South
Tuesday		Tukwila Elementary 5939 S 149 th St.	Thorndyke Elementary 4415 S. 150 th St.	Cascade View Community Park 14211 37 th Ave S.
Thursday			Showalter Middle School 4328 S 144 th St.	Tukwila Community Center 12424 42 nd Ave. S.

Pick up free activity kits at school lunch sites. Visit Parks and Recreation staff from 12:15 - 1:15pm for free lunches, snack packs, and activity kits.



@TUKWILAPARKS

PARK 'N' PLAY

From October through December, Youth & Teen Recreation staff visited several schools and parks to distribute meals, snacks, and recreation activity kits. They delivered nearly 5,000 recreation activity kits, 2,500 meals, and 3,700 snacks (approximately one meal for every minute the program was in session)!

Connect with Virtual Senior Fitness Programs

On November 2, Tukwila Parks and Recreation Wellness staff kicked off a new FREE Virtual Senior Adult Fitness Class. Classes are held via Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 11:00–11:50AM. The sessions include 30 minutes of movement, followed by 20 minutes of social time for participants. Attendees can request to have a fitness pack delivered to their door. Available on loan for as long as the program is offered virtually, the pack includes small hand weights, ankle weights, an exercise ball and exercise band. For more information, email sports@TukwilaWA.gov or call 206-767-2822.

Operation Senior Meal Drop

When Covid-19 restrictions were first implemented in March, the Senior Program with Parks and Recreation started offering meal delivery to seniors. The goal was to support isolated seniors with weekly check-in calls and healthy meals to help limit their need to potential exposure. As of December 10, this program has delivered 14,821 meals to Tukwila residents. Funding for this program was provided by the King County Veteran's Senior and Human Service Levy funding and the City of Tukwila.

Spirit of Giving:
We all helped make
a HUGE difference
this year!

Thank You!

With your generous support, we raised **\$30,000** and we served **153 families and 388 children**. Each family received

- art kits
- home essentials & grocery gift cards
- hygiene kits
- STEM toys
- toys that promote movement
- winter coats for all kids

A drive-thru style event was held in mid-December to distribute items. Families were delighted & appreciative.

Thank you for helping to ease financial stress and create a time of joy for Tukwila families!





CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Riverton Creek flapgate removal

This habitat restoration project has completed construction for this year, and will resume next summer. The contractor, R.L. Alia, completed the upland structural elements of the project, including reinforcing the existing sheet pile wall adjacent to the Tukwila International Boulevard bridge over the Duwamish River, a new retaining wall adjacent to the Gateway North Office Park, and bridge abutments and wing walls that will support the new future trail bridge. In the summer of 2021, work will focus on stream realignment, culvert removal, and installation of habitat features.

At the same time, AtWork! Commercial Enterprises has tackled the invasive vegetation along the stream banks and in the upper wetland area. Restoration planting is scheduled to begin in early spring 2021.

Contact: Habitat Project Manager Mike Perfetti at 206-433-7192, or Mike.Perfetti@TukwilaWA.gov



Boeing Access Road bridge over Airport Way:

The Boeing Access Road (BAR) bridge over Airport Way is the last remaining structure on the BAR corridor that has not been seismically upgraded. Razz Construction, Inc., has been contracted to perform the construction and work commenced in mid-October 2020. There will be multiple stages, with traffic revisions and lane closures on both BAR and Airport Way during construction. The bridge is currently restricted to one lane in each direction during construction on the topside of the bridge. The project will then relocate to Airport Way and have a minimal lane shift when working under the bridge. Completion is scheduled for March 2021. The City received 100% funding for the construction from the Federal Bridge Replacement Advisory Council.

Contact: Project Manager Adam Cox at 206-431-2446, or Adam.Cox@TukwilaWA.gov

53rd Avenue South & 42nd Avenue South Phase III Project

2020 was the official year of completion for two major neighborhood roadway improvements, 42nd Avenue South Phase III and 53rd Avenue South. Both projects included significant streetscape improvements including sidewalks, planter strips and, on 42nd, a shared bike lane. The projects also made significant improvements to the major utilities of storm water, potable water and sanitary sewer, as well as underground conversion of power and communication lines throughout the project limits. The 42nd Avenue South project also upgraded an existing storm system at Gilliam Creek with a new arch culvert to provide better protection from storm damage. While completion of the projects were both dependent on local power and telecommunications utilities completing their underground scope, these improvements have been completed and the City looks forward to closing out both construction contracts by the end of the year as the contractors complete minor punchlist items.



Green the Green

The installation phase of the public-private partnership to restore native riparian vegetation has concluded. The real work now begins to maintain the hundreds of plants installed at two lower Green River sites – Southcenter Plaza and NC Machinery. Applied Ecology, LLC completed the installation and first year of maintenance, installing a temporary irrigation system and controlling invading non-native vegetation. The first three years will be particularly important in helping the native trees and shrubs become established. The City received a grant from WRIA 9 to support two years of maintenance.

Contact: Habitat Project Manager Mike Perfetti at 206-433-7192, or Mike.Perfetti@TukwilaWA.gov

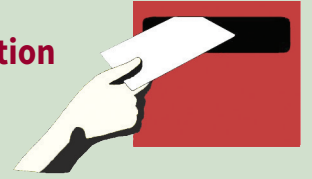


East Marginal Way South Stormwater Outfalls

This surface water project will reconstruct drainage infrastructure along the northern portion of East Marginal Way South near the north City limits. The project will provide the City with a new drainage connection to the Duwamish River, and prevent stormwater from being discharged into neighboring properties' drainage systems. To accomplish this, the City will construct a small pump station and pump stormwater north to a City-owned outfall through Boeing property. The improvements also include constructing water quality improvements to treat stormwater prior to its release into the Duwamish River, and lining a portion of the City's outfall pipe to prevent the potential for contaminated groundwater from entering the pipe and flowing to the Duwamish River. The project is anticipated to begin in early January and be completed by May 2021. The City received 75% of the project funding for design and construction from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Contact: Project Manager Ryan Larson at 206-431-2456, or Ryan.Larson@TukwilaWA.gov

Additional payment option added at City Hall



As a result of the relocation of the Police Department to the City's new Justice Center, the payment drop box located in the Police lobby was removed. For safety and convenience, residents can submit payments through a new 24-hour mail slot drop box located at the front doors of City Hall. Tukwila continues to accept payments for services over the phone, online and via mail.

Teen Link is here for you

Teen Link runs a peer-to-peer helpline for young people who need someone to talk to. Teen volunteers respond to calls, texts and chats, on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00–10:00PM (adult response all other times). No issue is too big or too small. They provide support around relationship issues, bullying, loneliness, school stress, and mental health issues. Teen Link has translation services for over 200 languages, and offers coaching around substance use. Call 1-866-TEENLINK (833-6546), or visit TeenLink.org.

Hello Students!



We're checking in on you! While many things may seem uncertain at the moment, please know that you do not have to face it alone. If you're feeling isolated and need someone to talk to, you can **call, chat, or text us**. **Teen Link** is here for you.

Our phone line is free to call, we have translation services available, and our team is here to provide you with compassionate support every day from 6pm-10pm.

We also offer free professional Substance Use consultations via our **Teen Link Substance Use Prevention Line** that teens can call for information about drug use education, prevention, and treatment options.

It's normal to be feeling off with everything going on right now. We're just a phone call away and would love to hear from you! No issue is too big or too small.

Partially funded by:



- The Teen Link Team

1-866-TEENLINK (833-6546)
www.teenlink.org

THE HAZELNUT

City of Tukwila
6200 Southcenter Blvd.
Tukwila, WA 98188

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The COVID-19 vaccine provides hope

A safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19 is a major break-through. But vaccine alone won't end the pandemic right away.

Continue to keep yourself and your family safe: wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet away from others, limit activities away from home, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.



Tallaalka COVID-19 wuxuu bixiyaa rajo

Tallaalka badbaadada leh ee wax ku oolka ah ee ka hortagga COVID-19 waa horumar. Laakiin tallaalka keligood isla markiiba ma joojin doonaan faafida.

Sii wad inaad ilaaliso naftaada iyo qoyskaaga mid amaan ah: xiro maaskaro, ugu yaraan ka fogow 6 fuudh dadka kale, xaddid dhaqdhaqaaqyada ka baxsan guriga, ka fogow dadka badan oo dhaq gacmaha badanaa.

Vắc xin COVID-19 mang lại hy vọng

Vắc xin an toàn và hiệu quả chống lại COVID-19 là một bước đột phá. Nhưng chỉ riêng vắc xin sẽ không chấm dứt đại dịch ngay lập tức.

Tiếp tục giữ an toàn cho bản thân và gia đình: đeo khẩu trang, cách xa người khác ít nhất 6 bước chân, hạn chế hoạt động xa nhà, tránh đông người và rửa tay thường xuyên.

La vacuna COVID-19 brinda esperanza

La vacuna segura y eficaz contra COVID-19 es un gran avance. Pero las vacunas por sí solas no acabarán inmediatamente con la pandemia.

Continúe protegiéndose a usted y a su familia: use una máscara, manténgase al menos a 6 pies de distancia de los demás, limite la actividad fuera de casa, evite las multitudes y lávese las manos con frecuencia.

TUKWILA CITY HALL

6200 Southcenter Boulevard
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30AM–5:00PM
Telephone: 206-433-1800
Fax number: 206-433-1833
E-mail: Tukwila@TukwilaWA.gov
Website: TukwilaWA.gov

MAYOR Allan Ekberg.. 206-433-1850

Mayor's Office

Administration Offices..... 206-433-1850
David Cline, City Administrator....206-433-1851
Economic Development..... 206-433-1832
Municipal Court..... 206-433-1840

Administrative Services

Rachel Bianchi, Dep. City Adm.... 206-454-7566
City Clerk's Office..... 206-433-1800
Human Resources – Personnel...206-433-1831
City Job Line..... 206-433-1828
Human Services.....206-433-7181
Community Engagement..... 206-454-7564

Community Development Dept.

Jack Pace, Director.....206-431-3670
Code Enforcement.....206-431-3682

Finance Department

Vicky Carlsen, Director..... 206-433-1835

Fire Department

Jay Wittwer, Chief.....206-575-4404
Jason Konieczka, Emerg Mgmt...206-971-8740

Parks/Recreation Department

Rick Still, Director..... 206-767-2342

Police Department

Eric Drever, Interim Chief.....206-433-7175

Public Works Department

Hari Ponnekanti, Interim Director206-433-0179

Technology Services Department

Joel Bush..... 206-454-7575

Emergency – Fire, Police..... 911

TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER

12424 - 42nd Avenue South
Recreation Division.....206-768-2822
Senior Center/Services.....206-767-2323

FOSTER GOLF LINKS

13500 Interurban Avenue South
Pro Shop.....206-242-4221

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Laurel Humphrey, Analyst..... 206-433-8993

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

7:00PM in Council Chambers
Regular Meetings..... 1st/3rd Mondays
Committee of the Whole..... 2nd/4th Mondays

The Hazelnut newsletter is published
six times a year by the City of Tukwila